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Committee Assignments

Land Use & Planning (Chair)
Highways & Transportation
Higher Education
Commerce & Trade

Slower growing counties could remove themselves from certain reporting requirements under the state's Growth Management Act under legislation taken up in a House committee this week. (see below)

County could win exemption from part of growth law (*Yakima Herald-Republic, 3/25/03*)

Substitute Senate Bill 5680, sponsored by **Sen. Joyce Mulliken**, R-Ephrata, would allow counties with low population densities to extend deadlines for mandatory updates of comprehensive plans.

"Why should we ask counties with little or no growth to go through the lengthy and costly process of updating the comprehensive plan?" **Mulliken** said Monday.

"Counties like these have a long ways to go before they're a crowd," **Mulliken** said

Sen. Joyce Mulliken's

UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA

3/28/03

Dear Friends,

While the work of The People continues in Olympia, I must admit, the events of the last few days has brought a renewed perspective on the freedoms, liberties and sacrifices that define what it means to be an American. I hope you join with me in extending our thoughts and prayers to the brave men and women fighting overseas. They need to know that we support them!

The Senate Higher Education Committee yesterday amended and then approved a bill (**EHB 1079**) which allows students who are on their way to becoming U.S. citizens to qualify for resident tuition rates at public colleges and universities in Washington.

In order to qualify for resident tuition rates, students must complete a full senior year in a Washington state high school and obtain a diploma, or its equivalent; must live in the state continuously up to the time of enrollment in a college or university; must provide an affidavit indicating that he or she will file an application for permanent residency; and must be willing to take citizenship preparation classes.

This issue has been misrepresented by the media in many ways. *We're not talking about granting illegal aliens resident tuition.* These are green card-carrying members of our communities **who pay taxes**.

I also want to tell you quickly about a bill that passed the Senate last week and is now in the House Local Government Committee.

Senate Bill 6012 reverts shoreline management guidelines to those in place before 1995. This removes the Department of Ecology's authority to develop and adopt guidelines regulating shorelines. This means that local governments will be free to regulate shorelines based on statutory guidelines, not guidelines developed by DOE that are really "un-funded mandates" that don't take local options into account!

As a result of a recent court decision, DOE proposed new shoreline guidelines. But there is still a great deal of contention over this issue. As a result, local governments have been reluctant to update their master programs due to the lack of predictability – it's impossible to know if DOE and the growth management hearings boards would approve these updates!

This has been a contentious issue; one where, I believe, state government has way overstepped its bounds. I sponsored this bill because I believe it's time to role these regulations back and provide some stability and predictability back into the process.

As always, please contact my office with your questions or concerns.

Sen. Joyce Mulliken, 13th Legislative District